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BAE

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WAGE RATES SLIGHTLY BELOW LAST YEAR

Farm wage rates did not rise quite as much between April 1 and July 1 this year as they did last year, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics reported today. As a result, for the second consecutive quarter wage rates averaged slightly lower for the United States as a whole than on the corresponding date a year earlier. The wage rate index unadjusted for seasonal variation climbed from 408 percent of the 1910-14 average on April 1 to 438 percent on July 1, while the seasonally adjusted index rose from 416 on April 1 to 425 on July 1 -- 6 points below the level of a year ago.

About 4 percent more hired farm workers were at work during the week of June 19-25 than during the corresponding week a year earlier. Crop reporters in many States report a general easing in the supply of farm labor for hire, which in many cases permits farmers to be more selective in their hiring from the standpoint of quality and efficiency of workers. Family employment was about 2 percent lower than last year, while total farm employment of 12,019,000 was about the same as a year earlier.

For the United States as a whole, the wage rate increase from April 1 to July 1 occurred in all types of rates except per week without board or room, which was slightly lower. However, there were significant differences between the movements of wage rates in the different regions because of variations in the timing of rush jobs and differences in the employment situation. In New England, where the decrease in non-agricultural employment opportunities has been greater than in other regions, all types of wage rates were lower on July 1 than on April 1. A similar weakening occurred in the South Atlantic States. At the other extreme, all types of rates were higher than on April 1 in the West North Central and West South Central States, where a large winter wheat crop was being harvested. In the Middle Atlantic and East North Central States monthly and weekly wage rates were steady but daily and hourly rates were higher than on April 1. In the East South Central States rates were slightly higher or steady, while in the Mountain States movements were small. In the Pacific States, where hourly rates are important, these hourly rates were unchanged, while one of the monthly rates was up slightly, the other unchanged.

Compared with last July, for the United States as a whole, the monthly and weekly rates were lower, the daily rates were slightly higher, and the hourly rates were divided, one up, one down. All types of rates were lower than last year in New England and the East North Central States, while in the West North Central States all rates were lower except the rate per day with board and room,

which was unchanged. Similarly, all rates except per day without board and room were lower than last year in the Middle Atlantic States. In the South Atlantic and Pacific States the most important rates, hourly, were lower than last year, but most other rates were higher. In the South Central States the hourly rate without board and room was down from last year, but most other rates were slightly higher. The situation was reversed in the Mountain States, where hourly rates were up from the previous year, but all other rates were lower.

There were 3,231,000 hired workers on farms during the week of June 19-25, an increase of 4 percent from a year ago. There was an increase of 682,000 hired workers (or 27 percent) from a month earlier, a slightly larger than usual seasonal increase. Large seasonal increases occurred in the West North Central and South Atlantic States. The West South Central was the only region showing a drop from the previous month, and this decline was typically seasonal. The number of family workers showed the usual seasonal change from May with the Northeast, North Atlantic and Mountain States up and the other regions down. The total number of family workers during the week of June 19-25 was 8,788,000.

Farm employment of hired workers was below a year ago only in the South Atlantic States. However, the number of unpaid family workers was above last year in only one region, the West South Central. The trend in total farm employment continues down, as the increase in hired workers since last June failed to offset the decrease in unpaid family workers.

The drought in the northeastern areas continued during the survey week, with some relief in northern New England. Good rains occurred in other sections. Rains in the middle Mississippi Valley and Gulf States prevented cultivation and harvest and favored boll weevil activity.

Haying operations were in progress in nearly all States, and the small grain harvest was under way or had begun in the southern two-thirds of the country. The wheat harvest was nearing completion in Texas and Oklahoma and moving north into Kansas. Sugar beet thinning was about completed and cotton chopping and cultivation of corn and tobacco were major activities. Peach harvest, cherry picking and other fruit harvests were under way or beginning.

Southern New England continued to suffer from drought during the last of June with temperatures averaging above normal. There was some damage to vegetables, but weather was ideal for cutting hay. The strawberry season was nearly ended. Rains relieved the drought in the northern part, and potatoes and other crops in this area made good progress.

The drought also extended to the Middle Atlantic States with temperatures averaging above normal. The dry weather was ideal for haying, but hard on other crops. Cherry picking was in full swing the latter part of June and the small grain harvest had begun. Transplanting of cabbage in the main crop sections of western New York, which was delayed due to lack of moisture, progressed rapidly after the rains of June 25. The dry weather caused truck crop farmers to irrigate extensively in New Jersey. The barley harvest in this State was completed by the end of June and wheat and rye harvest was beginning. The dry weather cut down the length of the season for many truck crops.

By the end of June the winter wheat harvest was under way in all of the East North Central States. Farmers were also busy cultivating corn and soybeans,

with many making their last cultivation. Haying operations were also a major activity. Warm favorable growing weather was generally experienced. Moisture was ample with some areas receiving more rain than needed; this delayed haying and grain harvesting operations. The small grain season is about two weeks early in northern Ohio. In the orchard area of southern Illinois early apples and peaches were being picked. Wet weather the latter part of June delayed haying operations in Michigan. Cherry picking was under way in southwest Michigan. In Wisconsin tobacco transplanting was nearly done.

Haying was in progress in all of the West North Central States and winter wheat harvest was under way in Kansas, started in all sections of Missouri, and about to begin in Nebraska. All of the States were cultivating corn. Minnesota crops on July 1 were generally from 1 to 2 weeks ahead of normal. Cultivation of corn in Iowa was reported as ahead of a year ago. Crops in the irrigated areas of Nebraska were being watered. Corn and sorghum planting in Kansas was about completed by July 1.

In the South Atlantic States haying and cultivating row crops were the major activities in many areas late in June. Crops in Delaware and parts of Virginia and Maryland were suffering from dry weather. Moisture supplies were better farther south, with parts of Georgia receiving an oversupply. Farmers in Virginia and North Carolina were cultivating tobacco, corn, and peanuts. Tobacco harvest in North Carolina was under way in southern counties and beginning in the coastal and mid-State counties. Early tobacco was curing in South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. Florida was shipping watermelons, but the truck crop season was over. From Georgia to North Carolina the peach harvest was getting under way.

Rains the last week of June delayed cultivation over much of the East South Central States. Many fields were weedy. Principal activities in Kentucky were cultivating corn and tobacco, with some haying and small grain harvest. Farmers in most of the area were harvesting small grains, weather permitting. Many fields in Alabama were being hoed since the ground was too wet to permit any other type of cultivation. Beans, tomatoes, and other truck crops were moving in moderate volume from Alabama farms, and harvest of early peaches was beginning.

Heavy rains the last of June delayed cultivation and late planting over much of the West South Central States. As a result of the rainy weather, many cotton fields were weedy and labor for hoeing was in demand. Winter wheat harvest was nearing completion in Texas and was in full swing in most of Oklahoma. Flax harvest is completed in Texas and the harvest of grain sorghums is under way in the southern part of the State. Chopping cotton was a major activity in all of these States. Early Arkansas peaches and truck crops were moving to market.

Sugar beet blocking and thinning in the Mountain States was nearly completed and the truck crop season was well under way. Haying operations were in full progress on July 1. Potatoes, fruits, and vegetables were being harvested in Idaho. Haying was in full swing in Wyoming. Chopping in the cotton counties of New Mexico was about finished and the wheat harvest was beginning in the northeast section of the State. The peak of the cantaloupe and watermelon season was approaching in Arizona; many persons were also employed harvesting potatoes. There was a heavy movement of early truck crops

Continued on page 12--

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics

DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

Employment

Farm employment estimates of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics cover persons doing farm work on all farms. Mailed questionnaires are received every month from 15,000 to 20,000 farmers who report the number of persons working on their farms. Interview surveys of farmers are used less frequently to provide bench mark data on employment. The survey week for the mailed questionnaire each month is the last complete calendar week in the month except when that week includes the last day of the month; in that case the survey week is the next to the last full calendar week.

Employment concepts

All farm operators are counted as employed if they spend one hour or more during the survey week at farm work, chores, or in the transaction of farm business. Members of the operator's family or household doing unpaid farm work, or chores, are counted if they put in 15 hours or more during the survey week. Operators plus unpaid members of their families or households who meet these criteria of employment are called family workers. All persons doing one or more hours of farm work or chores for pay during the survey week are counted as hired workers. Members of the operator's family doing farm work for cash wages are counted as hired workers. Croppers are considered family workers when working on their own crops, but hired workers when doing farm work for pay off their own tracts. If a person is employed both as a family worker and a hired worker during the week on the same farm he is counted as a hired worker.

Comparability with other data

The data on farm employment published by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics differ from those on agricultural employment published by the Bureau of the Census in the Monthly Report on the Labor Force. The Bureau of Agricultural Economics collects information from the employer (the farmer) who reports the number of persons working on his farm during the week, regardless of the other jobs held by those workers. The Census data, on the other hand, are obtained through interviews with approximately 25,000 farm and nonfarm households with the housewife or some other member of the household reporting on the labor force status of the household members. They relate only to persons 14 years of age and over who are in the civilian population and not in institutions.

The difference between the BAE and the Census data is attributable mainly to the different treatment of three groups of workers. Children under 14 years of age who meet the criteria of employment are included in the BAE estimates, but not in the Census Bureau's. It is estimated that this number may reach a summer peak as high as two million. Persons working on more than one farm during the survey week are counted only once by the

Census Bureau, but they are counted by the BAE on each farm where they work and meet the minimum hour requirements. This group is also more numerous during the harvest season when the demand for farm labor is greatest. The additional count of workers attributable to this duplication is estimated at a minimum of a quarter of a million and may be considerably larger. The third group is composed of persons who work in both agricultural and nonagricultural employment, but work longer at the nonagricultural job; they are classified by Census as working in nonagricultural employment, but by the BAE as working on a farm. This last group may range from one-half million to a million in different seasons of the year.

Other groups counted by the BAE but not by the Census Bureau are imported foreign workers and some migratory workers not living in private households. On the other hand, the Census Bureau includes in its estimates of agricultural employment certain classes of workers which the BAE does not include. Persons with "nonfarm" occupations who are working on farms, such as bookkeepers and typists, some persons in certain agricultural processing activities, and farm operators with no other job who did no farm work are considered as employed in agriculture by the Census Bureau, but are not included by the BAE in its estimates of agricultural employment.

Because the volume of agricultural employment is affected by changes both in season and in weather, the difference in the week of the month for which the data are collected may also make some difference. The BAE data relate to the last full calendar week ending at least one day before the end of the month while the Census Bureau information relates to the week containing the 8th of the month.

The BAE estimates farm employment from current reports made by a selected group of farmers adjusted to enumerative survey bench mark data. The Bureau of the Census bases its figures on a sample of dwelling units. Accordingly, the figures in both cases are subject to a sampling variation and may differ from the results of a complete census.

Wage rates

Wage rates are reported quarterly by the same sample of farm operators that reports employment. The farmer is asked to report average wage rates being paid "at this time" in his locality. The "at this time" on the average probably represents the second or third day before the end of the month.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics

Farm employment: Persons employed during week of June 19-25, 1949
United States, with comparisons

	June average :1944-48 1/	June 20-26, : 1948	May 22-28, : 1949	June 19-25, : 1949
FARM EMPLOYMENT (Thousands of persons) :				
Total	12,327	12,102	12,071	12,019
Family labor	9,246	8,999	9,522	8,788
Hired labor	3,081	3,103	2,549	3,231
FARM EMPLOYMENT INDEXES (Adjusted for seasonal variation, 1910-14 = 100) :				
Total	82	80	81	80
Family labor	85	82	82	81
Hired labor	74	74	77	78

1/ Employment during the last full calendar week ending at least one day before the end of the month.

Farm wage rates: Wage rates, indexes and related data, July 1,
1949, with comparisons 1/

	July 1, : 1948	April 1, : 1949	July 1, : 1949
FARM WAGE RATES :			
Per month, with board and room	\$103.00	\$97.00	\$102.00
Per month, with house	131.00	115.00	130.00
Per week, with board and room	25.50	23.50	24.75
Per week, without board or room	32.25	30.25	29.75
Per day, with board and room	4.85	3.95	4.90
Per day, with house	3.45	3.40	3.55
Per day, without board or room	4.35	4.25	4.45
Per hour, with house68	.52	.69
Per hour, without board or room78	.71	.74
Composite rate per hour 2/57	.48	.56
FARM WAGE RATE INDEXES (1910-14 = 100) :			
Unadjusted	444	408	438
Adjusted for seasonal variation	431	416	425
RELATED INDEXES (1910-14 = 100) :			
Prices received by farmers 3/	298	260	* 252
Ratio of prices received to farm wage rates :	67	61	58
Average weekly factory earnings 4/	473	473	--

1/ Wage rates on the average refer to a date two or three days before the first of the month.

2/ Weighted average of all rates on a per hour basis.

3/ Average of the 15th of the given and the 15th of the previous month.

4/ Factory pay roll per employed worker; average of all weeks during the designated month. * June 15, 1949.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics

Farm employment: Persons employed during week of June 19-25, 1949,
United States and geographic divisions, with comparisons

Geographic division	June	May	June	May	June
	average	23-29,	20-26,	22-28,	19-25,
	1944-48 1/	1948	1948	1949	1949
	Thousands		Thousands		
TOTAL FARM EMPLOYMENT					
United States	12,327	12,326	12,102	12,071	12,019
New England	272	245	265	248	275
Middle Atlantic	745	633	730	623	729
East North Central	1,821	1,820	1,830	1,709	1,768
West North Central	1,975	1,794	1,941	1,706	1,904
South Atlantic	2,556	2,554	2,543	2,522	2,506
East South Central	2,146	2,345	2,024	2,395	2,042
West South Central	1,668	1,891	1,631	1,818	1,661
Mountain	481	412	480	408	474
Pacific	663	632	658	642	660
FAMILY WORKERS 2/					
United States	9,246	9,833	8,999	9,522	8,788
New England	202	179	200	176	196
Middle Atlantic	558	477	540	460	520
East North Central	1,516	1,560	1,531	1,468	1,451
West North Central	1,530	1,532	1,511	1,475	1,458
South Atlantic	1,791	2,065	1,728	2,011	1,697
East South Central	1,753	2,014	1,625	2,006	1,643
West South Central	1,253	1,380	1,228	1,325	1,213
Mountain	308	283	301	271	286
Pacific	340	343	335	330	324
HIRED WORKERS 3/					
United States	3,081	2,493	3,103	2,549	3,231
New England	70	66	65	72	79
Middle Atlantic	187	156	190	163	209
East North Central	305	260	299	241	317
West North Central	445	262	430	231	446
South Atlantic	765	489	815	511	809
East South Central	393	331	399	389	399
West South Central	415	511	403	493	448
Mountain	178	129	179	137	188
Pacific	323	289	323	312	336

1/ Persons employed during the last full calendar week ending at least one day before the end of the month.

2/ Includes farm operators doing one or more hours of farm work and members of their families working 15 hours or more during the survey week without cash wages.

3/ Includes all persons doing one or more hours of farm work during the survey week for pay.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics

Farm employment: Average number of persons employed per month, January through June, United States and geographic divisions, 1949 with comparisons 1/

Geographic divisions	1944-48	1946	1947	1948	1949
	<u>Thousands</u>		<u>Thousands</u>		
TOTAL FARM EMPLOYMENT					
United States	10,446	10,508	10,512	10,396	10,046
New England	223	225	225	221	222
Middle Atlantic	590	588	590	580	579
East North Central	1,564	1,570	1,565	1,568	1,495
West North Central	1,673	1,676	1,701	1,677	1,602
South Atlantic	2,102	2,101	2,123	2,103	2,063
East South Central	1,862	1,893	1,855	1,816	1,762
West South Central	1,553	1,582	1,554	1,556	1,473
Mountain	359	355	362	357	349
Pacific	520	518	537	518	501
FAMILY WORKERS <u>2/</u>					
United States	8,501	8,574	8,562	8,421	8,070
New England	170	173	169	168	167
Middle Atlantic	472	472	467	459	449
East North Central	1,352	1,362	1,356	1,354	1,286
West North Central	1,460	1,461	1,486	1,464	1,400
South Atlantic	1,657	1,665	1,674	1,643	1,588
East South Central	1,569	1,597	1,578	1,527	1,465
West South Central	1,241	1,266	1,245	1,235	1,170
Mountain	268	268	271	264	252
Pacific	312	310	316	307	293
HIRED WORKERS					
United States	1,945	1,934	1,950	1,975	1,976
New England	53	52	56	53	55
Middle Atlantic	118	116	123	121	130
East North Central	212	208	209	214	209
West North Central	213	215	215	213	202
South Atlantic	445	436	449	460	475
East South Central	293	296	277	289	297
West South Central	312	316	309	321	303
Mountain	91	87	91	93	97
Pacific	208	208	221	211	208

1/ Persons employed during the last full calendar week ending at least one day before the end of the month.

2/ Includes farm operators doing one or more hours of farm work and members of their families working 15 hours or more during the survey week without cash wages.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics

Farm wage rates: Wage rates by geographic divisions,
July 1, 1949, with comparisons

Geographic divisions	July 1, 1948 Dollars	April 1, 1949 Dollars	July 1, 1949 Dollars
PER MONTH WITH BOARD AND ROOM			
New England	105.00	103.00	100.00
Middle Atlantic	99.00	97.00	97.00
East North Central	98.00	95.00	95.00
West North Central	109.00	103.00	108.00
Mountain	130.00	127.00	128.00
Pacific	150.00	150.00	153.00
PER MONTH WITH HOUSE			
New England	140.00	136.00	133.00
Middle Atlantic	130.00	128.00	128.00
East North Central	121.00	122.00	120.00
West North Central	134.00	126.00	129.00
Mountain	161.00	160.00	158.00
Pacific	188.00	192.00	192.00
PER WEEK WITH BOARD AND ROOM			
New England	28.50	27.50	26.50
Middle Atlantic	26.50	25.25	26.00
PER WEEK WITHOUT BOARD OR ROOM			
New England	38.50	38.00	37.25
Middle Atlantic	36.50	35.50	35.50
PER DAY WITH BOARD AND ROOM			
East North Central	4.95	4.70	4.90
West North Central	5.60	5.00	5.60
PER DAY WITH HOUSE			
South Atlantic	3.35	3.40	3.25
East South Central	2.85	2.80	2.85
West South Central	3.90	3.80	4.25
PER DAY WITHOUT BOARD OR ROOM			
New England	6.70	6.80	6.50
Middle Atlantic	6.10	6.10	6.20
East North Central	6.10	5.90	6.00
West North Central	7.10	6.30	7.00
South Atlantic	3.80	4.00	3.90
East South Central	3.40	3.40	3.50
West South Central	4.45	4.25	4.70
Mountain	6.70	6.40	6.60
PER HOUR WITH HOUSE			
South Atlantic	-	.45	-
East South Central	-	.38	-
West South Central	-	.46	-
Pacific94	.88	.88
PER HOUR WITHOUT BOARD OR ROOM			
New England92	.89	.87
Middle Atlantic83	.79	.80
East North Central83	.80	.82
West North Central89	.83	.88
South Atlantic53	.51	.47
East South Central48	.45	.45
West South Central56	.53	.54
Mountain83	.84	.84
Pacific	1.01	.93	.93

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Monthly composite wage rates, Greater Boston Milk Marketing Area: Maine, \$110;
New Hampshire, \$122; Vermont, \$124; and Massachusetts, \$128.

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from Colorado farms. The first cutting of alfalfa hay was nearly finished and cherry picking had begun in Utah.

The Pacific States at the end of June appeared to have an adequate supply of labor for the fruit and truck crop season. The berry picking season was nearing completion. Apricot harvest had begun in Washington. Haying operations were in full swing in Oregon, where the cherry harvest was nearly over. Strawberry picking was about complete and the raspberry season was well along. Sugar beet hoeing and onion weeding were still in progress. The principal activities in California requiring large numbers of seasonal workers were the planting and harvest of truck crops, small grain harvest and picking cherries, apricots, and early grapes.